

PORT ST. JOE, FLORIDA

APRIL 26, 2007

SPECIAL MEETING

The Gulf County Board of County Commissioners met this date in special session with the following members present: Chairman Bill Williams, Vice Chairman Jerry W. Barnes, and Commissioners Carmen L. McLemore, Billy E. Traylor and Nathan Peters, Jr.

Others present were: County Attorney Timothy McFarland, Clerk Becky Norris, Clerk Executive Administrator Towan Kopinsky, Clerk Finance Officer Carla Hand, Chief Administrator Don Butler, Deputy Administrator Lynn Lanier, Building Official Lee Collinsworth, Code Enforcement Officer Michael Aiken, E.D.C. Director Alan McNair, Emergency Management/911 Coordinator Ben Guthrie, G.I.S. Director Larry Davis, Grant Writer Loretta Costin, Gulf County E.M.S. Director Shane McGuffin, Human Resources Director Denise Manuel, Mosquito Control Director Mark Cothran, Planner David Richardson, Assistant Planner Sarah White, Public Works Director Gerald Shearer, Road Department Superintendent Bobby Knee, Solid Waste Director Joe Danford, Veterans' Service Officer James Kennedy, Sheriff Dalton Upchurch and Sheriff's Office Major Joe Nugent.

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m., E.T.

GULF COUNTY HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE / HATCH ACT

John Tremont (S.H.I.P. Program Manager) and Diana Sealey (C.C.D.F. Director) appeared before the Board to discuss makeup of the Housing Advisory Committee, individuals that have benefitted from these programs, and meeting the needs of the "poor." Commissioner McLemore discussed that the S.H.I.P. Program has been good for Gulf County, and Commissioner Barnes discussed that he has visited some of the homes that have been renovated. Commissioner Peters and County Attorney McFarland discussed that makeup of the committee is regulated by Florida Statutes 420.9075(2)(a), and Commissioner Peters motioned to appoint Barbara Riley to serve on the Advisory Housing Committee as the advocate for the poor. Mr. Tremont stated that Michael Rogers is the advocate of the poor on the current committee. After further discussion about resolving these issues, Chairman Williams requested that these S.H.I.P. issues be handled through Chief Administrator Butler (who will gather all facts and information to present to the Board). Commissioner Peters then withdrew his motion for review of the entire committee.

Mel Magidson appeared before the Board to discuss the Hatch Act that was mentioned at the meeting on April 24th, stating that it is a Federal Act that refers almost solely to Federal employees in Federal elections and State employees who are administering Federal funds (in partisan elections). He stated that the Hatch Act would not apply to the situation that was discussed.

County Attorney McFarland stated that Florida has a Mini-Hatch Act (Florida Statute 104.31) that does govern State, County and Municipal officers and employees, and he presented copies to the Board members for their review.

ST. JOSEPH BAY HUMANE SOCIETY / ANIMAL CONTROL SHELTER

Commissioner Peters discussed that St. Joseph Bay Humane Society has agreed to shelter all animals picked up by the Animal Control Department, and requested information from Chief Administrator Butler. Chief Administrator Butler stated that all animals would be housed for a specific rate per day, and the estimated cost (based on the number of animals picked up last year) would be \$19,061.00 per year. Commissioner Peters discussed the additional cost, and Chairman Williams stated that he has requested information from the Animal Control Department regarding possible savings to the County (no renovation of the County's facility, no septic system installation, food, etc.).

ROAD BOND PAVING PROGRAM / CHANGE ORDER #3

Chief Administrator Butler reported that he, Road Department Superintendent Knee, the Engineers, and G.A.C. Contractors began negotiations on Change Order #3, but they are not finished and ready to submit it today.

Upon inquiry by Chairman Williams, Road Department Superintendent Knee stated that he will be meeting with Chief Administrator Butler and with the Clerk's Office tomorrow to set up the system for him to use in reference to invoice approval for the Road Bond Paving Program.

WEWAHITCHKA HEALTH DEPARTMENT PARKING LOT

There was no discussion on this issue.

WETLANDS / CODE ENFORCEMENT

Deputy Administrator Lanier reported that Mr. Carter called and will be unable to attend today because he has a physician's appointment.

BEACHES FIRE DEPARTMENT / OVERSTREET FIRE DEPARTMENT

Chief Administrator Butler discussed replacement and funding of the doors at the Overstreet Fire Department. Chairman Williams stated that the Board will have to look at their budget to see if they can help Overstreet Fire Department with this expense. Commissioner Traylor requested that Chief Administrator Butler check to see if the Maintenance Department can do this work (the County cannot do the work if it will void the warranty). Upon request by Chief Administrator Butler, Commissioner Traylor motioned to piggy-back the South Gulf County Fire Department door replacement on an emergency basis if the County is unable to do the work, and for Chief Administrator Butler to bring the cost estimate back to the Board. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

BUTLER BAY ROAD / COMMUNITIES LAND TRUST

County Attorney McFarland discussed dedication of Butler Bay Road, stating that it should be left as a roadway and the County could seek funding to purchase adjoining property to use as a park. Chairman Williams stated that Grant Writer Costin is seeking funding from the Communities Land Trust to purchase adjoining property. County Attorney McFarland stated that the dedication of the road does not prohibit a bike or walking trail on the right-of-way. Chairman Williams further stated that if the property owner (Valiente) executes the agreement stating that they are willing to negotiate on sale of the property, the County can file for the funding by May 9th.

OVERSTREET WATER SYSTEM C.D.B.G.

Chief Administrator Butler discussed the local match requirement (\$350,000.00) on the Overstreet Water System C.D.B.G., and recommended that the Chairman send a letter to the Florida Department of Community Affairs (D.C.A.) to request that the County's agreement be modified to allow the \$1 million expense paid by the City of Port St. Joe in connecting the water line to their system (per the annexation agreement) to be considered as the local match. He stated that if the County has to borrow this funding, there will be a debt service charge that the residents would have to pay. Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve this recommendation, and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion for discussion. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

P.D.R.B. MEMBERS

Commissioner Traylor discussed his displeasure in how the P.D.R.B. handled the land use change requested by Jamie Mayhann at the last meeting. He stated that he praises the P.R.D.B. members for the work they do, but he must also let them know when they do something he feels is wrong. Commissioner Peters stated that the issue was tabled by the P.D.R.B. Patrick Jones, Chairman of the P.D.R.B., appeared before the Board to discuss the P.D.R.B.'s decision to table Mr. Mayhann's request. He stated that this property is surrounded by agricultural and conservation zones, and they try not to allow "spot-zoning" for the overall planning of the County. He stated that the P.D.R.B. is an advisory Board, and needs the input of the County Commissioners. Chairman Williams discussed that the P.D.R.B. is made up of volunteers and there are many legal issues that must go into their decisions. Planner Richardson stated that as legislation keeps changing, the jobs of both Boards will become more and more difficult.

2007-08 BUDGET PROCESS

Chairman Williams stated that he was notified by Chris Doolin (Small County Coalition) that Gulf County has lost its fiscally-constrained status exemption. He stated that he would like for the Board to place 5% of their 2007-08 budget in a reserve for emergencies (that must be used only for Local State of Emergencies, and can be expended by super-majority vote only).

After discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to approve the Chairman's 2007-08 budget preparation guidelines and his recommendation for the 5% Reserve for Emergencies, and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. Jim Garth appeared before the Board, stating that the Citizens for Reduced Taxes are also in support of the Chairman guidelines. Commissioner McLemore discussed the bad financial situation that the County is in right now due to the extensive budget cuts (i.e. - animal control, etc.). Upon inquiry by Commissioner Peters, Chairman Williams reported that Mr. Doolin sent a survey to Chief Administrator Butler (justification of the County's budget) and also requested that the Chairman and Sheriff go to Tallahassee to talk about the affects the proposed legislation would have on Gulf County. The motion then passed unanimously.

COUNTY DEPARTMENT POLICIES/PROCEDURES

Commissioner Traylor discussed the procedures that the Department Heads and/or Supervisors must follow each day in listing their activities and duties. He stated that this paperwork is tying up the Supervisors when they are needed elsewhere. Commissioner McLemore stated that they are not able to get out and supervise the employees because they are in the office doing paperwork. Chairman Williams stated this paperwork is the only means for Commissioners and the public to know what is going on in each department. After further discussion, Commissioner McLemore motioned to no longer require the Supervisors to do this daily paperwork, and Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion. Commissioners Peters discussed various directives that have been given to employees which are a duplication of work. After further discussion by members of the Board, the motion passed 3 to 2, with Chairman Williams and Commissioner Barnes voting no.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS

Commissioner McLemore discussed the confusion that has been created with the way the Special Projects funds are now budgeted, and motioned to amend the General Fund budget to return the Special Projects funds allocations to the way it was set up in the budget last fiscal year. Commissioner Traylor seconded the motion and, after further discussion, it passed 4 to 1, with Chairman Williams voting no. Finance Officer Hand stated that she will prepare the budget amendment for the next agenda.

Upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, second by Commissioner Peters, and unanimous vote, the Board approved the following Special Projects payments:

Dist. 1	W.H.S. Project Graduation	\$ 100.00
	W.H.S. Jail-for-Bail	\$ 100.00
Dist. 2	W.H.S. Project Graduation	\$ 100.00
Dist. 4	P.S.J.H.S. Project Graduation	\$ 200.00
	W.H.S. Jail-for-Bail	\$ 50.00

Dist. 5	P.S.J.H.S. Project Graduation	\$ 200.00
	W.H.S. Jail-for-Bail	\$ 100.00

There being no further business and upon motion by Commissioner McLemore, the meeting did then adjourn at 12:46 p.m., E.T.

BILL WILLIAMS
CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:

REBECCA L. NORRIS
CLERK